

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 118518  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 /050 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

APPROVED BY EUR:GSVEST

CIWOLF

EUR:WHLUERS

-----056724 101232Z /72

R 092359Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 118518

FOR AMBASSADOR BYRNE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, TGEN, CU, US

SUBJECT: CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT

1. WE HAVE THOROUGHLY REVIEWED THE QUESTION OF MOVING AHEAD TO WRAP UP AND SIGN THE CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA THIS SUMMER. ON BALANCE, WE HAVE DECIDED THAT THE TIMING WAS POOR AND WOULD GIVE US PROBLEMS.

2. WE ACCEPT THE NEED TO BEGIN OPENING DOORS TO CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICES, INSTITUTIONS, UNIVERSITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF WIDENING THE HORIZONS AND INFLUENCING THE OUTLOOK OF THE BUREAUCRATIC INTELLIGENTSIA. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE CLEARED UP A NUMBER OF DIVIDED FAMILY CASES.

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3. HOWEVER, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT TAKING SUCH A STEP THIS SUMMER COULD BE CONSTRUED AS A SIGN THAT WE ARE SATISFIED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA. FURTHERMORE, WE WILL HAVE MANY REMINDERS OF THE REPRESSIVE ORIGINS OF THE PRESENT REGIME AS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1968 EVENT APPROACHES.

FINALLY THERE ARE MANY AREAS WHERE OUR RELATIONS HAVE  
NOT MOVED FORWARD, AND THE CZECH OFFICIAL ATTITUDE  
TOWARD THE U.S. HAS NOT MARKEDLY IMPROVED.

4. WE HAVE DECIDED THEREFORE THAT WE SHOULD NOT  
CONCLUDE AND SIGN THIS AGREEMENT THIS SPRING OR SUMMER.  
THIS MAY REQUIRE A SUSPENSION OF FURTHER DETAILED TALKS  
WITH THE CZECHS FOR A FEW MONTHS, AND YOU ARE AUTHORIZED  
TO SUSPEND THEM AT YOUR DISCRETION. IN THE FALL WE WILL  
REEXAMINE THE MATTER.

5. WE KNOW THAT THIS DECISION IS LIKELY TO BE  
DISAPPOINTING TO YOU AND THE STAFF. IT IS DIFFICULT  
SITTING IN PRAGUE WITH NO OPPORTUNITIES TO MOVE THIS  
RELATIONSHIP OFF DEAD CENTER. BUT WE WILL BE SEEKING  
IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS A NEW APPROACH ON THE GOLD/CLAIMS  
ISSUE. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CULTURAL EXCHANGES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978STATE118518  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** NGANDREWS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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